

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation for the construction of the Naples Power Plant project in Morris County, Texas.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Environmental and Historic Preservation Division, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1570. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/naples-power-plant>. Questions and comments should be emailed to RUS at RUSPublicComments@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of building the Naples Power Plant project. The Project consists of two simple-cycle gas turbine generators with a combined nominal capacity of up to 900 Megawatts (MW). The project site is approximately 100 acres and is one mile northwest of the City of Naples. It will include power plant infrastructure, including auxiliary equipment, switchyard, buildings, roads, and 500-foot lateral gas pipeline. The project will connect to adjacent existing utility infrastructure, including a natural gas line and electric transmission line. Alternatives considered by RUS and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation include: No action; alternate generation technologies, alternative sites. The alternatives are discussed in the Naples Power Plant EA. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Naples Monitor on June 12 & 19, 2025. A comment period was announced in the newspaper notice. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development website, as well the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation office. No comments were received during the public comment period.

Based on its EA and mitigation commitments made by Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project will have no significant impact to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS's potential federal action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: July 3, 2025